

ALESSANDRO FERRARA

European University Institute
Department of Social and Political Sciences
Via dei Rocchetini 9, Fiesole, Italy.

E-mail: alessandro.ferrara@eui.eu
Google Scholar: [Alessandro Ferrara](#)
Web: [Personal page](#)

EDUCATION

European University Institute, Doctoral school **Fiesole, Italy**
Doctoral Program in Political and Social Sciences *Sep 2019 - Present*
Supervisor: Fabrizio Bernardi
Thesis: *Migrant advantage or Optimism trap?*
Causes and consequences of positive ethnic choice effects

Bocconi University, Graduate school **Milan, Italy**
Master of Science in Economics and Social Sciences *Sep 2015 - Mar 2018*
Obtained with final grade 110/110 Cum Laude

Bocconi University, Undergraduate school **Milan, Italy**
Bachelor of International Economics, Management and Finance *Sep 2012 - Sep 2015*
Obtained with final grade 110/110 Cum Laude (class valedictorian)

RESEARCH VISITS AND EXCHANGES

WZB Berlin Social Science Center, Visiting Scholar **Berlin, Germany**
Health and Social Inequality Research Unit *Feb 2023 - Jun 2023*

Humboldt University, Visiting Scholar **Berlin, Germany**
DYNAMICS Research Training Group *Sep 2022 - Mar 2023*

Sciences Po (PSIA), Graduate Exchange Program **Paris, France**
Focus on Political Economy and Development *Sep 2016 - Dec 2016*

UC Berkeley, Undergraduate Exchange Program **Berkeley, California**
Focus on Mathematical and Development Economics *Sep 2014 - Dec 2014*

JOURNAL ARTICLES

Borgonovi, F. & **Ferrara, A.** (2023) [COVID-19 and inequalities in educational achievement in Italy](#), *Research in Social Stratification and Mobility*, 83.

Ferrara, A. (2020) [Aiming too high or scoring too low? Heterogeneous immigrant-native gaps in upper secondary enrollment and outcomes beyond the transition in France](#), *European Sociological Review*, jcac050.

Recchi, E., **Ferrara, A.**, Rodriguez Sanchez, A., Deutschmann, A., Gabrielli, L., Iacus, S., Bastiani, L., Spyrtatos, S., & Vespe, M. (2022) [The impact of air travel on the precocity and severity of COVID 19 deaths in sub national areas across 45 countries](#), *Scientific Reports*, 12(1).

Borgonovi, F., **Ferrara, A.** & Piacentini, M. (2021) [Performance decline in a low-stakes test at age 15 and educational attainment at age 25: Cross-country longitudinal evidence](#), *Journal of Adolescence*, 92, 114-125.

Borgonovi, F. & **Ferrara, A.** (2020) [Academic achievement and sense of belonging among non-native-speaking immigrant students: The role of linguistic distance](#), *Learning and Individual Differences*, 81.

WORKING PAPERS AND BOOK CHAPTERS

Borgonovi, F. & **Ferrara, A.** (2022) [Exposure to mathematics in secondary school and mathematics achievement, attitudes and self-beliefs](#) in Alvaro Choi (2022), *Economic Foundations of Education*, Bloomsbury Academic: London.

Borgonovi, F., **Ferrara, A.** & Piacentini, M. (2020) [From asking to observing. Behavioural measures of socio-emotional and motivational skills in large-scale assessments](#), *DoQSS Working Papers*, No. 20-19, Quantitative Social Science - UCL Social Research Institute, University College London.

Borgonovi, F., **Ferrara, A.** & Maghnoouj, S. (2018) [The gender gap in educational outcomes in Norway](#), *OECD Education Working Papers*, No. 183, OECD Publishing, Paris.

WORK IN PROGRESS

“Immigrant generation, gender, and citizenship: Evidence on educational track choices from Italy” (with Claudia Brunori).

“Intergenerational Consequences of Immigrant Selectivity: when does contextual attainment matter?” (with Renee Luthra), currently in revision.

“From the Streets to the Voting Booth: The Electoral Effect of Grassroots Mobilization Against the Far-Right” (with Francesco Colombo, Foteini Vassou, Fabrizio Bernardi and Elias Dinas), currently in revision - draft available [here](#).

“From asking to observing. Validating behavioural measures of socio-emotional and motivational skills in large-scale assessments” (with Francesca Borgonovi and Mario Piacentini) “ currently in revision, draft available [here](#).

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Humboldt University, Teacher Assistant
Course: Microsociology and Family Demography

Berlin, Germany
Oct 2022 - Mar 2023

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant
Migration Policy Center: Global Mobilities Project
Project: [The Airport Factor: Assessing the Impact of International and National Aviation Mobility on the Spread of Covid-19](#)

Fiesole, Italy
Oct 2020 - Aug 2021

Consultant
Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)
Project: [Strength Through Diversity](#) (Education and Skills Directorate)
Main responsibilities: Analyses and drafting chapters for the [Resilience of students with an immigrant background](#) Report

Paris, France
Feb 2017 - Apr 2019

Research Assistant

Essex Department of Economics (with Prof. Michel Serafinelli)
Project: The mobility of inventors and knowledge transfer

Essex, UK

Aug 2018 - Apr 2019

OFFICIAL TALKS

PAA Annual Conference	2022
ECSR Annual Conference	2021, 2022
ISA RC28 Annual Conference	2022
SISEC Annual Conference	2022
MiSoC Colloquium on Racial and Ethnic Inequalities	2021
GIZ Ankara Roundtable on Education and Migration (keynote speaker)	2018
American Education Research Association (AERA) Annual Meeting	2018

GRANTS

Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs Full PhD Scholarship	Sep 2019 - Present
Vittorio Bertazzoni Graduate Honorary Scholarship	Apr 2016 - Mar 2018
Bocconi Graduate Full Merit Based Scholarship	Sep 2015 - Mar 2018
Bocconi Undergraduate Full Merit Based Scholarship	Sep 2012 - Sep 2015

COMPUTER AND LANGUAGE SKILLS

STATA: Advanced knowledge	Italian: Native
R: Intermediate knowledge	English: Proficient
L^AT_EX: Advanced knowledge	French: Advanced
UCINET: Basic knowledge	Spanish: Intermediate

COMPLEMENTARY EDUCATION

Teacher Training Summer School Offered by the European University Institute	Florence, ITA Sep 2021
Summer Institute in Computational Social Science (SICSS)	Rotterdam, NLD Jun 2020

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Co-organiser: EUI Inequality Working Group The Inequality working group facilitates the exchange of research among EUI researchers and professors on various aspects of social inequality sponsored by prof. Fabrizio Bernardi and prof. Juho Harkonnen.	Sep 2020 - Jun 2022
Co-organiser: Bottom-up workshop on Agent-based modelling Taught by prof. Gianluca Manzo and sponsored by prof. Arnout van de Rijt.	Jun 2021

Co-manager: Fiasco Social Club

Nov 2019 - Sep 2021

Non-profit student-managed common space for informal events and aimed at enhancing the EUI sense of community